FIRST COMICS
NOV. NO. 8
$1.00
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E-MAN
WAX

FIRST NOTES

A BIT OF HISTORY

At the Chicago Minicon last April (last week to me), a bunch of fans asked me if I knew why comic books are cover-dated so far in advance. I told them the story I believe to be true — my own personal knowledge of magazine distribution and depression-era media makes me think this story is true. But it has taken on mythic proportions.

First, the situation: it is July, and you are reading a comic book cover-dated November. Four months ahead.

The first *regularly published* comic book is generally considered to be Famous Funnies, which was launched as a one-shot in 1933.

(Funnies On Parade is considered the first comic book, but it never went beyond one issue. It, too, was published in 1933 — so this year, 1983, is the 50th anniversary of comic books.)

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A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION

After a number of single issues, the monthly run of Famous Funnies started in May, 1934 — cover dated July.

At the time, it was traditional for magazines to be cover-dated the month the magazine was to go off-sale: if the book was a monthly and it went on sale in May, it would be cover-dated in June. When June came around and the news dealer was trying to make room for new issues, he'd pull off everything dated May and most magazines dated June that looked like they had been around for a while.

In those days, comics were put in the pulp magazine racks, and by being dated a month ahead, they somehow seemed newer. Young readers felt they were getting the jump on things by buying a "July" issue amidst all those "June" magazines.

This lesson wasn't lost on the other, newer comics publishers. When one of them came out with a bi-monthly, they dated it still an additional month ahead: an August book among all those July comics that went on sale in May — three months.

During the next, oh, 40 years, some publishers caught on to this trick, and a great many of them standardized their line at that three-months ahead date. To the best of my recollection, the last holdout, DC Comics, equalized their bi-monthly and monthly cover-dates sometime in the mid-1970s.

But by that time, an additional month was put into the formula. I seem to remember Marvel Comics skipping a month's cover-date in the early 1970s, but if that actually happened or it was merely a fanzine-published rumor, I really can't say. But that fourth month did come in there.

All of this nonsense really started in the 1930s, when comic book issue numbers weren't all that important. And due to various scheduling and competitive pressures, that two months gap between on-sale month and cover-date month stretched to four.

When First Comics started up, we had a short discussion about cover-dates. We realized we had the opportunity to cut through 50 years of nonsense by merely cover-dating the off-sale date: if the book comes out in July, it would be cover-dated August and not November.

But we really didn't see it that way. It wasn't 50 years of nonsense. Not really. It was 50 years of tradition. Comic books are *supposed* to be cover-dated a light-year in advance.

So our object is to increase the gap between on-sale date and cover-date, so that within ten years the cover-date is a full year ahead. You'll buy a July-dated comic book in July — but it will be dated the following year.

There's just a fine line between nonsense and tradition.

JUST A NOTE...

... to thank everybody who responded to my "serious editorial" several months ago. We've received a ton of comment, most along with letters to various First Comics published that month, and some folks who specifically wrote in just to comment on the editorial.

The mail was 100% positive. Take that, video book burners.

— Mike Gold

ON SALE NOW

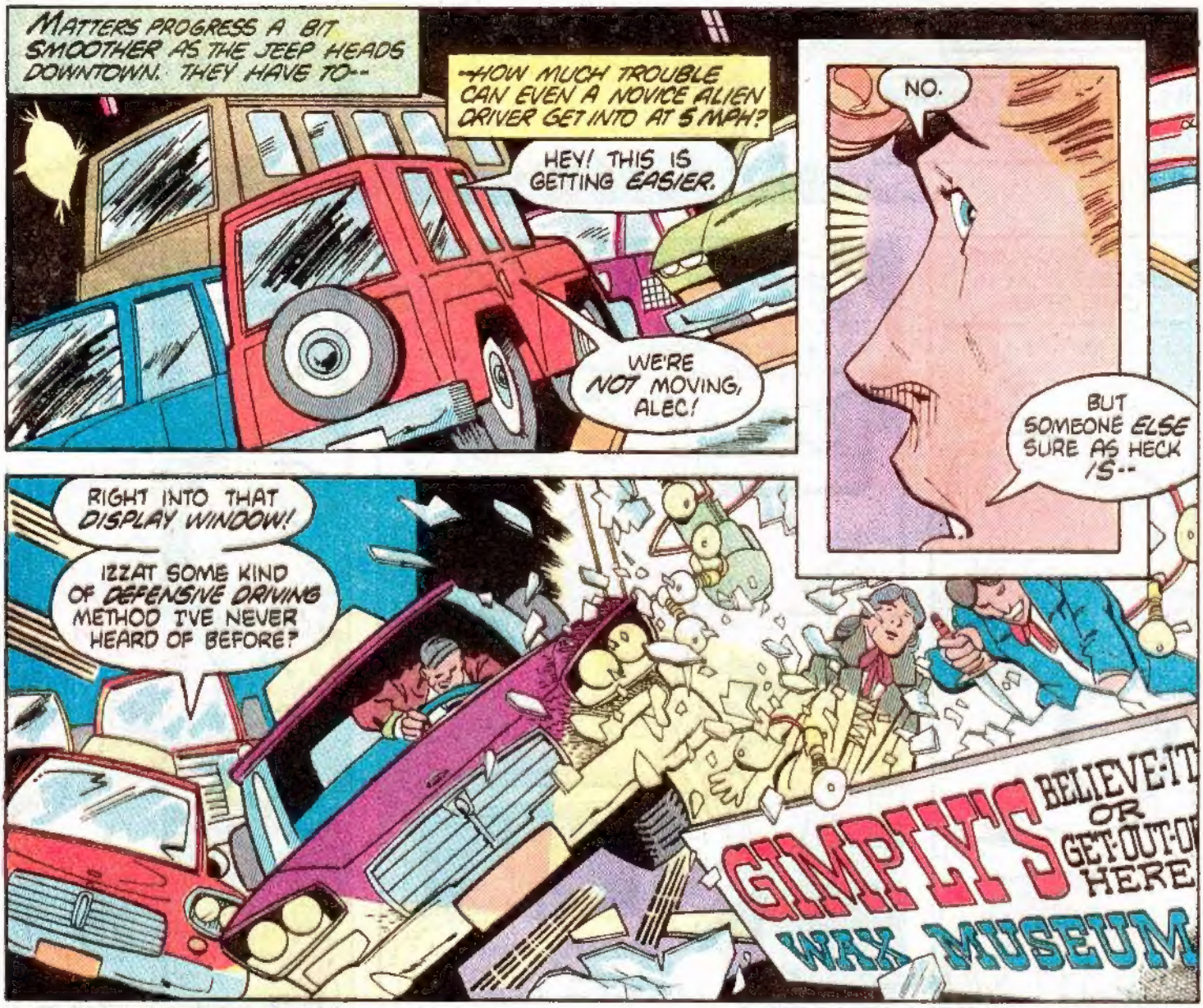
Jon Sable, Freelance #6: The conclusion to the most dramatic origin story of all! "A Deadly Shade of Violet" — part four of the origin of **Mike Grell's** Jon Sable! If you haven't been following this thriller, you've been missing one of the most successful new titles of the year!

Starslayer #10: Two important introductions this time around: Meet Black Thom — **Starslayer** certainly will — in the latest mini-epic from **John Ostrander, Lenin Delsol** and **Mike Gustovich** ... and meet **Grimjack** — the newest and most central hero from **Ostrander, Timothy Truman** ... and First Comics!

Warp #8 "Paradox Lost," the next-to-last chapter of the play adaptation, by **Frank Brunner, Peter Gillis** and **Mike Gustovich.** And ... beginning a two-part Valaria tale. "A Little Knowledge ..." by **Gillis, Bill Willingham** and **Bruce Patterson.** Cover by **Brunner.**

American Flagg #2: It's "Jukebox Saturday Night!", the second chapter of **Howard Chaykin's** kick-off three-parter. And if you thought it was hitting the fan at the end of last month's issue, Chaykin's got more than just a few surprises in store for you!

THIS IS THE CITY...
...WHERE DANGER LURKS AROUND EVERY CORNER...
...AND EACH DAY BRINGS A NEW CHALLENGE.
WHEW!
D-OID IT!
OF COURSE YOU DID, ALEC! JEEZ, YOU ACT LIKE YOU'VE NEVER PARKED A CAR BEFORE!
I HAVEN'T.
I TOLD YOU, NOVA, I JUST GOT MY LEARNER PERMIT YESTERDAY!
DEVO
MANOMAN...GIMME A DOZEN THUGS WITH GUNS, BUT SPARE ME HIS DRIVING!
HI, EVERYBODY! HOPE I HAVEN'T KEPT YOU WAITING?
NOPE. RIGHT ON TIME, LESLIE. PILE IN--
YOU CAN'T HELP BUT MEET EVERYONE THAT WAY!
SHORTLY...
NOW TAKE IT EASY, ALEC! LESLIE AND I WANT TO MAKE IT TO WORK AT THE MOIST PALMS CLUB IN ONE PIECE!
I KNOW I SHOULD TAKE IT EASY...YOU KNOW I SHOULD TAKE IT EASY...
I REALLY HATE THIS...
...BUT WOULD SOMEBODY PLEASE TELL THEM I SHOULD TAKE IT EASY!
WATCH IT, YA JOIK! WHO TAUGHT YUZ HONDA DRIVE...HELEN KELLER?!
WHA...?! $617.30 FOR A TRIP FROM THE AIRPORT TO MIDTOWN--THAT'S RIDICULOUS!
AWRIGHT, SO I TOOK THE LONG WAY ...THROUGH PENNSYLVANIA!


MATTERS PROGRESS A BIT SMOOTHER AS THE JEEP HEADS DOWNTOWN. THEY HAVE TO--
--HOW MUCH TROUBLE CAN EVEN A NOVICE ALIEN DRIVER GET INTO AT 5 MAH?
HEY! THIS IS GETTING EASIER.
WE'RE NOT MOVING, ALEC!
NO.
BUT SOMEONE ELSE SURE AS HECK /S--
RIGHT INTO THAT DISPLAY WINDOW!
IZZAT SOME KIND OF DEFENSIVE DRIVING METHOD I'VE NEVER HEARD OF BEFORE?
GIMPLY'S
BELIEVE-IT OR GET-OUT-OF HERE
WAX MUSEUM

IT'S AN ACCIDENT, DODO. WE GOTTA STOP AN' HELP!
...ANYTHING TO GET OUTTA THIS CAR...
ZOOT-
OKAY, BUT FIRST...

ZZZZZzzz.
THERE! THAT'LL KEEP LESLIE AND DONALD IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION, SO THEY DON'T SEE ME MAKE MY SWITCHEROO! GRAB THE WHEEL, NOVA!
GLADLY!

AT LIGHT SPEED, ALEC TRONN TRANSFORMS HIMSELF INTO PURE ENERGY, TO BECOME THE CHARACTER...
CREATED BY NICOLA CUTI! JOE STATON
E-MAF
...AND TRANSPORTS HIMSELF INSTANTLY TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE STREET!
OH-OH! THE CRASH BUSTED SOME OF THE LIGHTBULBS IN THIS WAX MUSEUM'S WINDOW--
--SHORTING OUT THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM--
--STARTING A FIRE--
--WHICH IS SPREADING RAPIDLY BECAUSE OF THE FLAMMABLE WAX FIGURES!
HMM. WONDER WHO THIS RUBE GOLDBERG GUY IN THE WINDOW DISPLAY WAS...
WOW! WOTTA GUY!
MUSTA' BEEN THE MUSHROOM SALAD I HAD FOR LUNCH!
WHAT A SHOWOFF! HE COULD'VE JUST WALKED ACROSS...
OFF DUTY
DUTY
Love Means Never Having to Say You're Larry
PLOT BY MARTIN PASKO
WORDS BY PAUL KUPPERBERG
PENCILS BY JOE STATON
INKS BY RICK BURCHETT
LETTERS BY KEN BRUZENAK
COLORS BY WENDY FIORE
BLUE PENCIL MARKS BY MIKE GOLD
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THERE'S GONNA BE A HOT TIME IN THE OLD TOWN TONIGHT IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING--
-FAST!
SKREEK
FWHUSSSH!
SKREEK
FIRST, I OPEN THIS FIRE HYDRANT--
WHIRRRRRR
HOT DOG! IT'S WORKING!
THEN REASS-EMBLE MY MOLECULAR STRUCTURE INTO A FAN TO DISPERSE THE WATER FOR MAXIMUM COVERAGE!
WITHIN MOMENTS, THE FLAMES ARE SPUTTERING, DROWNED IN A DELUGE OF BRACKISH NEW YORK CITY WATER.
SOME MIGHT CALL THAT CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISH-MENT.
HEY... A-AREN'T YOU... E-MAN--?!
IN THE, ER... FLESH...?
THANK YOU, E-MAN! AND IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU! I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF YOUR BIGGEST...
DON'T SAY IT, PLEASE!
I'M SAM NAILS, ASSISTANT PROPRIETOR OF GIMPLY'S BETTER BELIEVE-IT-WAX MUSEUM. THIS IS MY BOSS, LARRY GIMPLY!
A PLEASURE, SIR! YOU'VE SAVED MY BUSINESS FROM DISASTER!
ALL IN A DAY'S WORK, SIR!
4

MOMENTS LATER, A WAIL OF SIRENS DETACHES ITSELF FROM THE CONTINUOUS CACOPHONY OF TRAFFIC...
THANKS HEAPS, E-MAN! YOU KEPT THE BLAZE CONTAINED!
NO SWEAT, GUYS!
"NO SWEAT," HE SAYS! DID YOU HEAR THE MAN, SAM...HE SAYS, "NO SWEAT!"
M'BOY, YOU'RE A GENUINE HERO...A MARVEL..A WONDER...I OWE YOU MY LIVELI-HOOD!
AW, GEEEE--!
...AND MR. GIMPLY WAS SO GRATEFUL, HE INSISTED ON GIVING ME A REWARD!
YEAH, BUT FREE PASSES, KID? THEY AIN'T EVEN VALID ON WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS...!
YOU GUYS DIVVY THE LOOT LATER, OKAY?
--'CAUSE THIS IS WHERE LESLIE AND I GET OUT! SEE YOU LATER... AND FOR IACCOCA'S SAKE, ALEC--
--DRIVE CAREFULLY!
SIGH! EVERYONE'S A CRITIC!
WE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE SOME LUNCH WHILE THE FIREMEN FINISH UP, SAM. AHHH...NOW, WOULDN'T IT BE MARVELOUS IF THESE LOVELY YOUNG LADIES WOULD JOIN US?
YOU'RE LARRY GIMPLY, AREN'T YOU? I'VE SEEN YOU IN THE MOIST PALMS CLUB!
HARUMPHH! ER...MERELY TO DOWN SOME REFRESHMENTS, MS...AH, KANE, ISN'T IT?

I DO BELIEVE I MIGHT HAVE, ER...GLIMPSED YOUR ACT, MS. KANE, BUT I DON'T RECOGNIZE YOUR LOVELY FRIEND!
TONIGHT'S LESLIE'S DEBUT. YOU CAN CATCH THE ACT LATER BUT WE GOTTA GO NOW.
GIMPLY'S
CLUB
NYPD
SEE YOU LATER, MR. GIMPLY!
SIGH! NOW THAT'S A WOMAN, EH, SAM?
NOVA KANE IS REAL ATTRACTIVE, MR. G.
NOT HER! THE OTHER ONE!
SIGH!
...SO, YOU'VE GOT YOUR WATER DAMAGE, BUT NONE OF THE WAX FIGURES BACK HERE WERE TOUCHED BY THE FIRE.
WELL, THAT'S SOMETHING, I SUPPOSE.
HOW'S THE CLEAN-UP COMING, SAM?
WE SHOULD BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS BY TOMORROW MORNING, MR. GIMPLY.
LISTEN... CAN WE TAKE A BREAK? THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANING TO SHOW YOU!
CERTAINLY, M'BOY! I'M NEVER TOO BUSY FOR YOU!
IT'S ABOUT THIS CAPSULE I FOUND IN MY BACKYARD LAST NIGHT!
THERE'S ALL KINDS OF WEIRD SCIENTIFIC GIZMOS IN IT...LOOKS LIKE REAL OUTER SPACE STUFF TO ME--
--IN FACT, I THINK IT IS FROM SPACE...LIKE THE KIND NASA SENDS OUT TO MAKE CONTACT WITH ALIEN RACES!
MOST OF THE GIZMOS WERE DAMAGED...IN THE LANDING, I SUPPOSE... BUT I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT TINKERING WITH THIS ONE.
I THINK IT'S WORKING NOW.
IT CERTAINLY IS! AND BEFORE EITHER MAN IS EVEN AWARE OF THAT FACT-
--TWIN BEAMS OF ENERGY SHOOT FROM THE DEVICE IN SAM NAILS' HAND--
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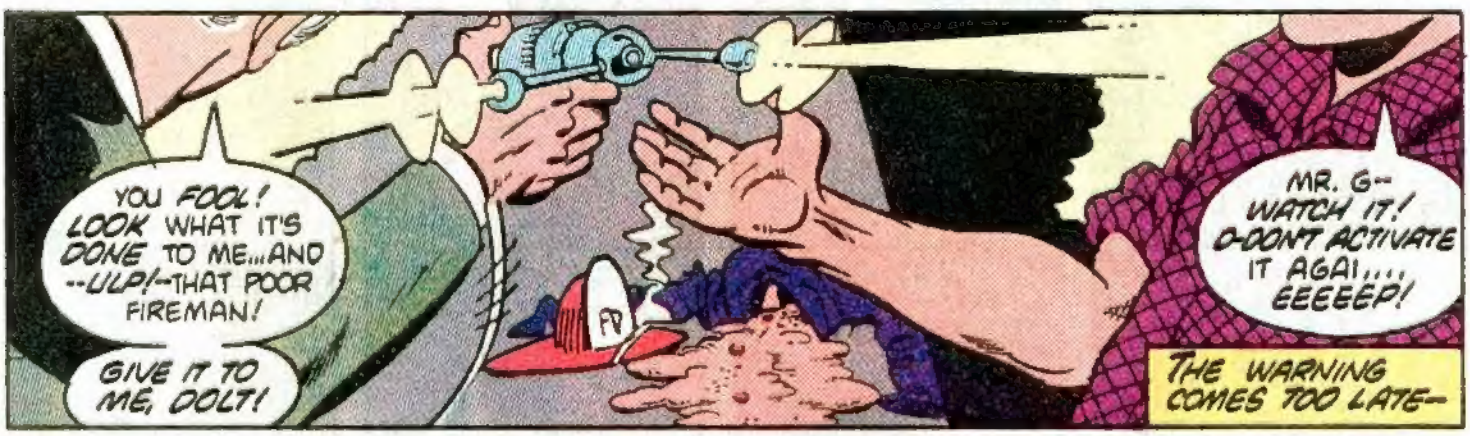
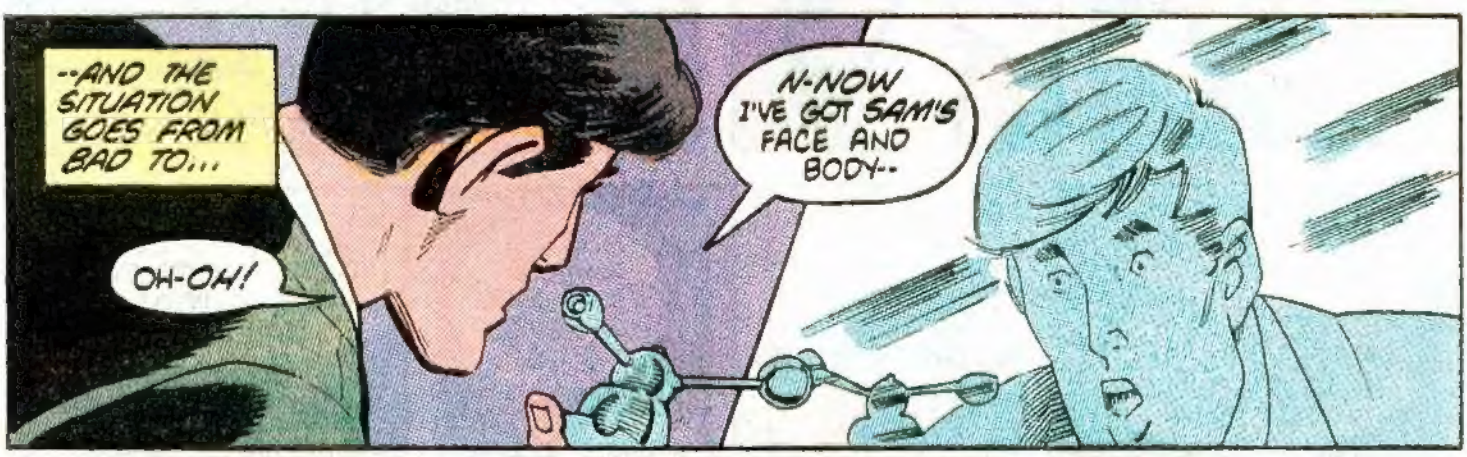
--AND WHERE ONCE THERE STOOD LARRY GIMPLY AND A FIREMAN, THERE NOW STANDS JUST LARRY--
G-GOOD GOD, M'BOY! W-WHAT IS THAT THING--?!
WELL, IT'S, AH...JUST...Y'KNOW ...AN ALIEN THING--?!
--WITH THE FIREMAN'S FACE!


YOU FOOL! LOOK WHAT IT'S DONE TO ME...AND --ULP!--THAT POOR FIREMAN!
GIVE IT TO ME, DOLT!
MR. G-- WATCH IT! D-DON'T ACTIVATE IT AGAI.... EEEEEP!
THE WARNING COMES TOO LATE--


--AND THE SITUATION GOES FROM BAD TO...
OH-OH!
N-NOW I'VE GOT SAM'S FACE AND BODY--

--AND SAM IS...YUCCCH!

I THINK I'M IN BIIIIG TROUBLE...
7

YOU KNOW THE OLD SAYING, "IT NEVER RAINS, IT POURS!"
OKAY. NOW THAT WE'VE DROPPED YOUR NEPHEW DONALD OFF AT THE AIRPORT, MAUSER—
COULD I BE SO BOLD AS TO ASK WHERE HE'S GOING? IS HE GOING BACK TO SCHOOL?
NOT EXACTLY...
AND HOW COME YOU INSISTED ON COMING ALONG FOR THE RIDE?
I'M SENTIMENTAL ABOUT MY FAMILY!
UH-HUH. THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T EVEN WAVE TO THE KID WHEN HE LEFT!
ALRIGHT! BE SECRETIVE IF YOU WANT! I DON'T CARE!
AS LONG AS I GET BACK TO THE MOIST PALMS IN TIME FOR NOVA'S NEW ACT! I'VE NEVER SEEN HER WORK BEFORE.
RANDAR IS COMING! READY OR NOT
RIIIGHT!
I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THAT, KID.
YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF, AH... WORK SHE DOES, DON'T YOU?
SURE. SHE'S A PART-TIME ARCHAEOLOGY STUDENT AND EXOTIC DANCER.
SO?
NAW, ALEC. I MEAN, WHAT SHE REALLY DOES!
WHAT'D YOU MEAN WHAT SHE REALLY... OH!
UBETUR BUICK PARKING GARAGE $75 a day
YOU'VE GOT A DIRTY MIND MIKE! NOVA'S JUST A DANCER! SHE DOESN'T FOOL AROUND WITH THE CUSTOMERS!
I BEEN AROUND, KID... AH... DANCING DON'T PAY THE RENT!
FACE IT, TRONN... YOU'RE HUNG-UP ON THAT DAME, AIN'TCHA?
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YOU'RE KIDDING YOURSELF, TRONN...AND YOU'RE JUST MAKING IT WORSE BY BEING ROOMMATES WITH HER! IT'S NO GOOD FOR YOU, KID!
--AND TONIGHT'LL SHOW YOU WHY!
OUR RELATIONSHIP'S PURELY PLATONIC. IT WOULDN'T WORK ANY OTHER WAY-- I AM AN ALIEN ENERGY CREATURE FROM OUTER SPACE, Y'KNOW.
MEANWHILE, DOWN THE BLOCK AT GIMPLY'S WAX MUSEUM...
SINCE I'M STUCK WITH THIS BODY, I MIGHT AS WELL MAKE THE BEST OF IT! AND NOW THAT WHAT'S LEFT OF SAM IS SWEPT AWAY INTO THE TRASH--
-I CAN GET ON WITH HIS LIFE, SAYING THAT I...LARRY GIMPLY... DISAPPEARED!
AND "SAM'S" LIFE STARTS WITH A PHONE CALL TO...
LESLIE FALTZ, PLEASE!
SPEAKING. WHO'S THIS, PLEASE?
HI. MY NAME'S, ER...SAM NAILS. WE MET EARLIER AND I WAS WONDERING, IF YOU AREN'T BUSY TONIGHT, IF WE COULD...
LISTEN, I DON'T DATE MUCH, MR. NAILS. IF YOU CATCH MY ACT LATER, I THINK YOU'LL UNDERSTAND...
THE MOIST PALMS CLUB IS PLEASED TO PRESENT EXOTIC DANCER PAR EXCELLENTE... NOVA...KANE!
JUST WATCH, TRONN. YOU'LL SEE!
C'MON, MAUSER! NOVA'S ACT IS JUST GOOD, CLEAN ENTERTAINMENT!
PANT! SLOBBER!
OH, MOMMA!
M...MY PACEMAKER ...GASP!
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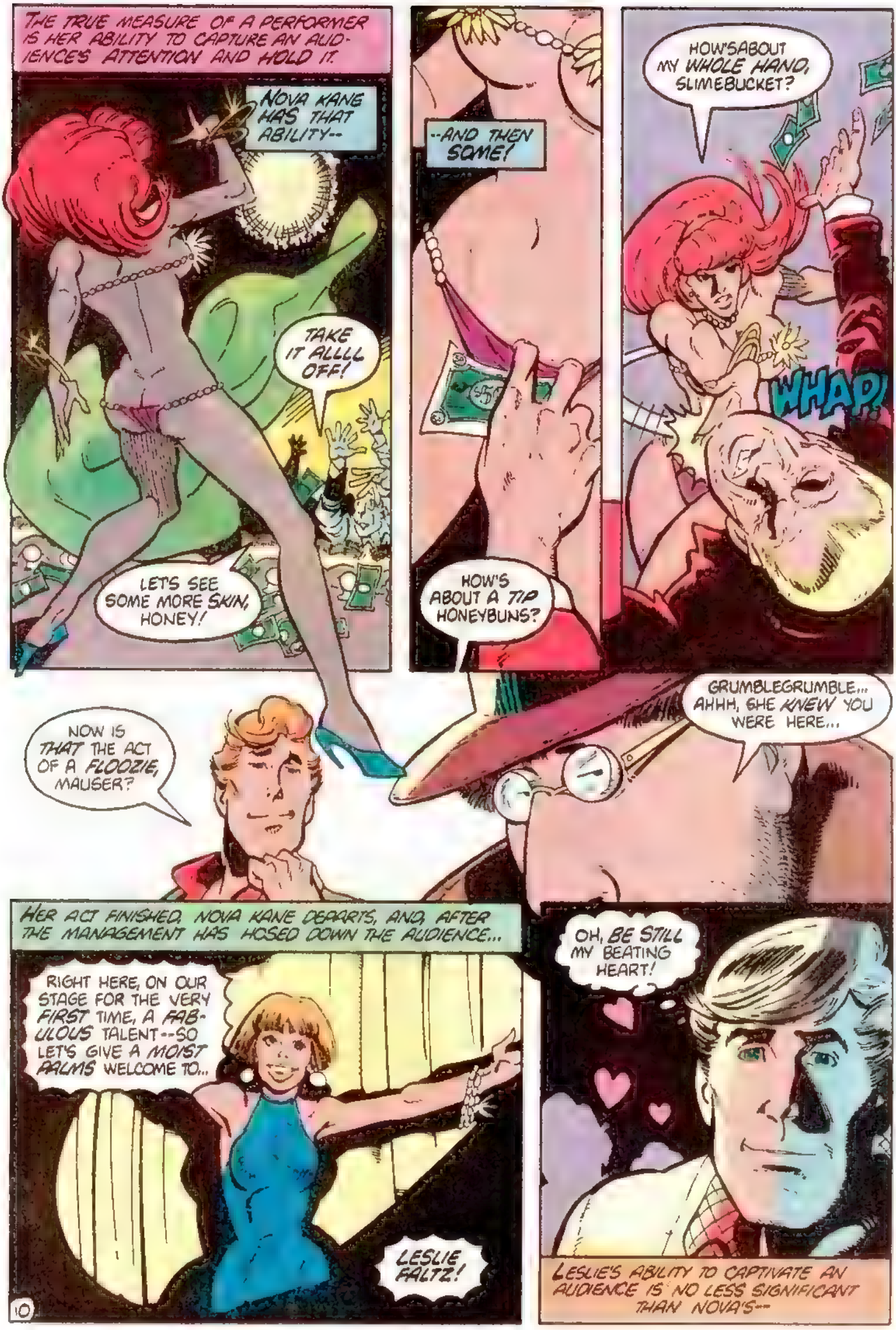
THE TRUE MEASURE OF A PERFORMER IS HER ABILITY TO CAPTURE AN AUDIENCE'S ATTENTION AND HOLD IT.
NOVA KANE HAS THAT ABILITY--
TAKE IT ALLLL OFF!
LET'S SEE SOME MORE SKIN, HONEY!
--AND THEN SOME!
HOW'S ABOUT A TIP HONEYBUNS?
HOW'SABOUT MY WHOLE HAND, SLIMEBUCKET?
WHAP!
GRUMBLEGRUMBLE... AHHH, SHE KNEW YOU WERE HERE...
NOW IS THAT THE ACT OF A FLOOZIE, MAUSER?
HER ACT FINISHED, NOVA KANE DEPARTS, AND, AFTER THE MANAGEMENT HAS HOSED DOWN THE AUDIENCE...
RIGHT HERE, ON OUR STAGE FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME, A FABULOUS TALENT--SO LET'S GIVE A MOIST PALMS WELCOME TO..
LESLIE FALTZ!
OH, BE STILL MY BEATING HEART!
LESLIE'S ABILITY TO CAPTIVATE AN AUDIENCE IS NO LESS SIGNIFICANT THAN NOVA'S--
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--AND THE LITHESOME ENTERTAINER HOLDS THESE MEN ENTHRALLED FROM THE VERY FIRST SONG--
--RIGHT DOWN TO THE SPECTACULAR FINALE OF IMPERSONATIONS OF 1940s MOVIE STARS...
"WIRE HANGERS! I GIVE YOU THE BEST CLOTHING MONEY CAN BUY...AND YOU PUT THEM ON WIRE...HANGERS...!"
AND, AS THE APPLAUSE MOUNTS...
THANK YOU, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! FEMALE IMPERSONATION IS MY LIFE!
WHA...?!?
LARRY GIMPLY IS NOT PLEASED.
HE'S ALSO NOT ONE TO KEEP THAT A SECRET...
FRAUD! HARLOT! TRAMP!
Y-YOU LIED TO ME, LADY...ER, MISTER! YOU'RE A SHAM!
OH!
I REMEMBER YOU! WELL, LOOK, PAL, DON'T GET MAD AT ME...I NEVER SAID I WAS A WOMAN!
WELL, YOUR PANTY-HOSE SAID YOU WERE!
YOU WERE REALLY SOMETHING, NOVA! YOU HAD THAT AUDIENCE EATING OUT OF YOUR HAND!
YEAH, BUT HER HAND WASN'T WHAT THEY WERE LOOKIN' AT!
N-NOW BACK OFF, MISTER! I-I THOUGHT YOU KNEW I WAS A FEMALE IMPERSONATOR...I NEVER MEANT ANY HARM!
BUT THERE WAS HARM DONE, NONETHELESS, STRUMPET!
NO. LARRY GIMPLY IS NOT PLEASED AT ALL. LES FALTZ SCREAMS--

--AND SALVATION ARRIVES, IN THE FORM OF STAGE MANAGER HOMER OSWALD...
HEY! WHAT'S WID DA KNIFE AWREADY?!
HUH?!?
CLUB POLICY STRICTLY FORBIDS DA SLASHING OF DA PERFORMERS, BUDDY. YOUSE'LL HAVE TO LEAVE!
BAH! TRY AND MAKE ME, FOOL! WHILE I POSSESS THIS, YOU'LL DO NOTHING--
EXCEPT DIE!
LARRY-WITH-THE-FACE-OF-SAM LAUGHS UPROARIOUSLY AS THE ALIEN FORM-SWITCHER IS AGAIN ACTIVATED, RELEASING ITS ENERGIES--
--DOING THE TRICK FOR LARRY...BUT NOT DOING A HECK OF A LOT FOR HOMER!
W-WHAT'D YOU DO TO HIM...?!
DON'T ASK!
EEEEEEK!
SOUNDED LIKE A...SCREAM!
WE'LL MAKE A DETECTIVE OUTTA YOU YET, KID!
FOLLOWING THE SCREAM, ALEC BURSTS INTO LES' DRESSING ROOM--
H-HE TURNED THE STAGE MANAGER TO...TO JELLO...AND THEN WAS COMING FOR ME WITH A KNIFE!
HE WENT THAT WAY!
--AND THEN OUT THE WINDOW AS CRACKLING ENERGY!
THERE HE GOES...LEAPING TO THE ROOF OF THE WAX MUSEUM!

...AND NOW INSIDE! RIGHT THROUGH THE SKYLIGHT, TOO! THAT'S GOTTA SMART!
KRAAK!
BUT PAIN ISN'T ON LARRY'S MIND AS HE LANDS NIMBLY BELOW!
NOBODY WILL EVER FIND ME HERE! I KNOW THE MUSEUM AS WELL AS THE BACK OF MY HAND!
...AT LEAST WHEN IT WAS THE BACK OF MY HAND!
NOT GOOD! THIS PUTS A HANDICAP ON MY USING MY POWERS TO THEIR FULLEST--
--BECAUSE A STRAY ENERGY-BOLT COULD SET ALL THIS FLAMMABLE WAX OFF IN A BLAZE!
BUT JUST BECAUSE I'M LIMITED DOESN'T MAKE ME HELPLESS!
EH--?! SO, E-MAN... WELL, FOLLOW ME ALL YOU WISH, DOLT--
--FOR ALL THE GOOD IT WILL DO YOU! HA HA HA!
UH-OH! THIS ONE'S STARTING TO SOUND LIKE A REAL FLAKE--RIGHT DOWN TO THE MANIACAL LAUGHTER, YET!
THIS IS MY TERRITORY, E-MAN--
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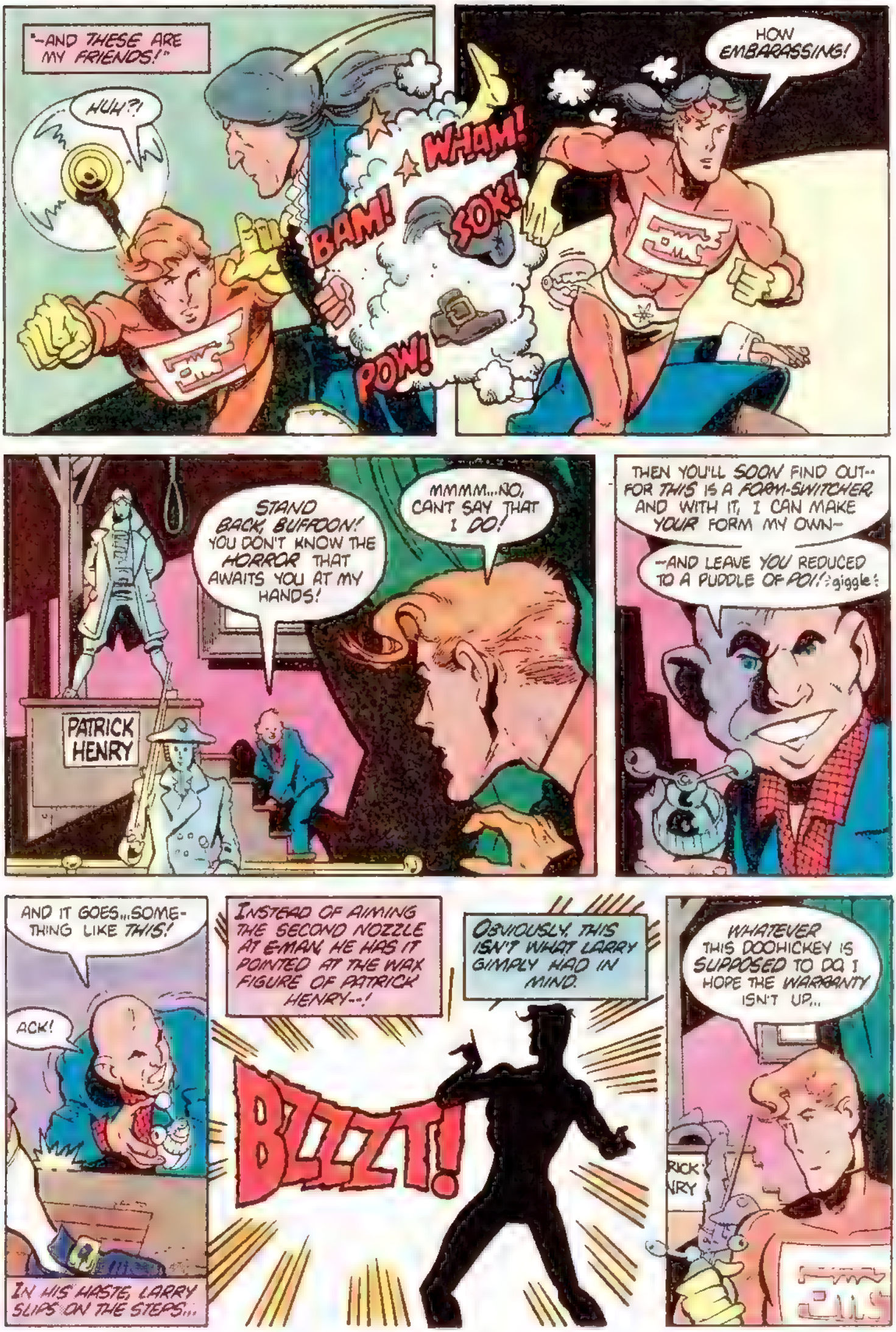

"--AND THESE ARE MY FRIENDS!"
HUH?!
WHAM!
BAM!
SOK!
POW!
HOW EMBARASSING!
STAND BACK, BUFFOON! YOU DON'T KNOW THE HORROR THAT AWAITS YOU AT MY HANDS!
MMMM...NO, CAN'T SAY THAT I DO!
PATRICK HENRY
THEN YOU'LL SOON FIND OUT-- FOR THIS IS A FORM-SWITCHER, AND WITH IT, I CAN MAKE YOUR FORM MY OWN--
--AND LEAVE YOU REDUCED TO A PUDDLE OF POI! :giggle:
AND IT GOES...SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
ACK!
IN HIS HASTE, LARRY SLIPS ON THE STEPS...
INSTEAD OF AIMING THE SECOND NOZZLE AT E-MAN, HE HAS IT POINTED AT THE WAX FIGURE OF PATRICK HENRY--!
OBVIOUSLY, THIS ISN'T WHAT LARRY GIMPLY HAD IN MIND.
BLZZT!
WHATEVER THIS DOOHICKEY IS SUPPOSED TO DO I HOPE THE WARRANTY ISN'T UP...

FAR FROM HAVING JUST WITNESSED DEATH--E-MAN HAS UNKNOWINGLY SEEN A BIRTH--
--OR MORE TO THE POINT, REBIRTH!
INCREDIBLE! THE FORM-SWITCHER HIT BOTH ME AND THAT WAX FIGURE--
--GIVING ME ITS WAXY EXTERIOR! I MUST RETRIEVE THE DEVICE IF I EVER HOPE TO RETURN TO NORMAL--
--AND SLAY THAT FRAUDULENT TRAMP!
MEANWHILE...
SORRY FOLKS, BUT I DIDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK AT THE GUY. BUT HE'S GONE NOW...FOR GOOD!
BUT HE ATTACKED ME! H-HE'S SAM NAILS, FROM THE WAX MUSEUM NEXT DOOR...AT LEAST HE WAS, UNTIL HE BECAME HOMER OSWALD...
I'M SORRY, LES. YOU DON'T HAVE ANY WITNESSES TO THIS ATTACK--
AND THE ONLY EVIDENCE OF ANYTHING WEIRD IS THAT PUDDLE OF GRAPE JELLO ON THE FLOOR.
I DON'T THINK IT'S JELLO, E-MAN...PERHAPS MORE LIKE RICE PUDDING! BUT I WON'T KNOW ANYTHING UNTIL I GET IT BACK TO THE LAB FOR STUDY.
SURE'N I'M THINKIN' MEBBE THE TWO OF YOU SHOULD COME DOWNTOWN FOR QUESTIONING, E-MAN, MS.--ER...MR. FALTZ!

BUT SINCE NEITHER E-MAN NOR LES FALTZ HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHAT WENT ON, THE QUESTIONING DOESN'T TAKE LONG, AND...
LOOK, LES... AS LONG AS YOU'RE SAFE, THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS, ISN'T IT?
MEANING YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE ME, HUH?
I'M NOT MAKING IT UP, E-MAN! SAM NAILS DID BECOME HOMER, AND... AND...
WRONG, E-MAN!
SHE...ER, HE... ER, IT... COMES--
--TO DIE! YAAHA HA HA!
OH, NO! NOT AGAIN...!
YESSS, YOU FRAUDULENT EXCUSE FOR A TART! AND THIS TIME THERE ARE NO SUPERHEROES AROUND TO SAVE YOU!
-CAUSE I SPENT A COUPLE OF YEARS IN THE MARINES, AN' THEY DON'T TEACH YOU TO FIGHT LIKE NO LADY!
HIIIII-YAAA!
HA HA HA! THIS WAXIFIED FORM GIVES ME EVEN GREATER POWER THAN I COULD HAVE DREAMED--
-ALLOWING ME TO STRETCH AND MOLD MYSELF INTO ANY SHAPE AT WILL! WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY TO THAT, TRAMP?
YEAH, WELL DON'T LET MY DRESS FOOL YOU, PAL--
16

BUT SINCE NEITHER E-MAN NOR LES FALTZ HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHAT WENT ON, THE QUESTIONING DOESN'T TAKE LONG, AND...

LOOK, LES... AS LONG AS YOU'RE *SAFE*, THAT'S ALL THAT *MATTERS*, ISN'T IT?

MEANING YOU *STILL* DON'T BELIEVE ME, HUH?

I'M *NOT* MAKING IT UP, E-MAN! SAM NAILS *DID* BECOME HOMER, AND... AND...

SURE, LES. YOU TAKE CARE NOW.

NOBODY'S GOING TO BOTHER YOU ANY-MORE!

MEANWHILE, JUST UP THE STREET...

LES IS A NICE GUY, BUT THAT *WACK-O* STORY OF HIS MAKES ME WONDER IF *MAYBE* HE'S NOT WEARING HIS *GIRDLE* TOO *TIGHT!*

AH, WELL. GUESS I'LL NEVER REALLY KNOW *WHAT* WENT ON IN HIS DRESSING ROOM...

...BUT THEN *AGAIN...!*

WRONG, E-MAN!

SHE...ER, HE... ER, *IT*...COMES--

--TO DIE! YAAHA HA HA!

OH, *NO!* NOT *AGAIN...!*

YESSS, YOU FRAUDULENT EXCUSE FOR A *TART!* AND *THIS* TIME THERE ARE *NO* SUPERHEROES AROUND TO *SAVE* YOU!

-CAUSE I SPENT A COUPLE OF YEARS IN THE *MARINES*, AN' *THEY* DON'T TEACH YOU TO FIGHT LIKE *NO LADY!*

HIIIII!-YAAA!

YEAH, WELL DON'T LET MY *DRESS FOOL* YOU, PAL--

HA HA HA! THIS WAXIFIED FORM GIVES ME EVEN *GREATER* POWER THAN I COULD HAVE *DREAMED*--

-ALLOWING ME TO STRETCH AND *MOLD* MYSELF INTO *ANY* SHAPE AT WILL! WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY TO *THAT*, TRAMP?

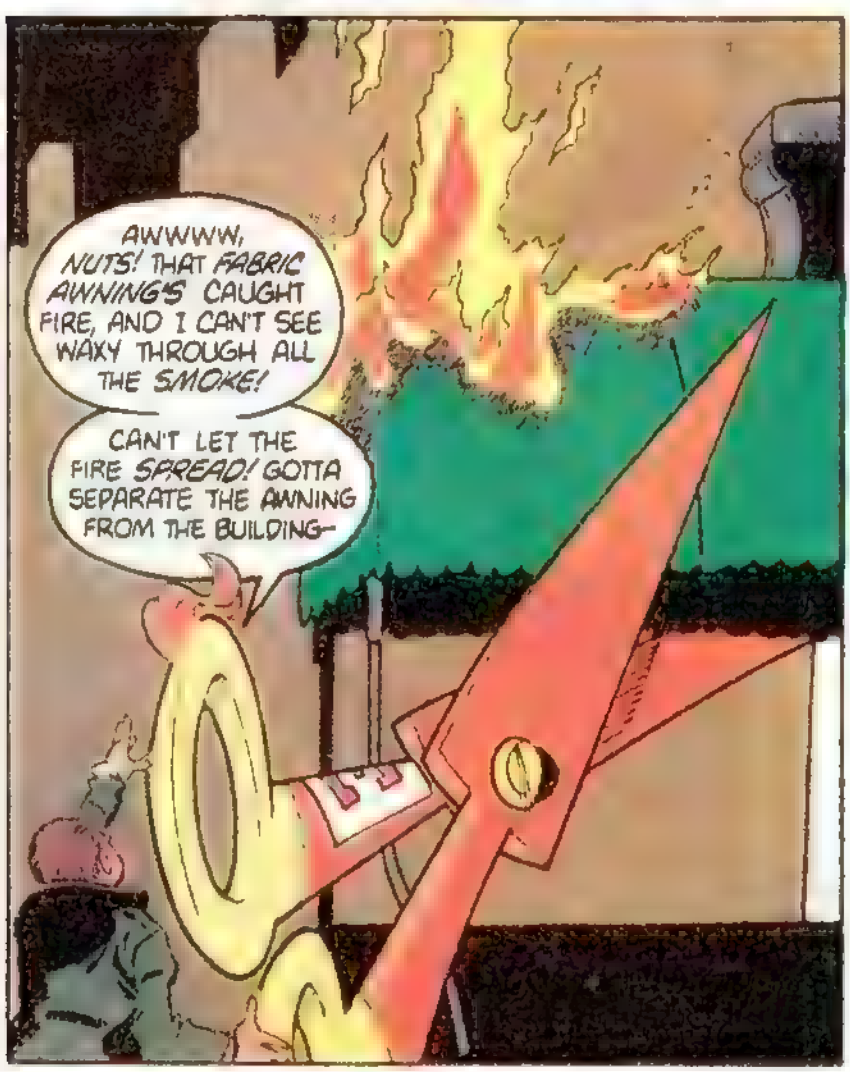
WOULD'YA BELIEVE...

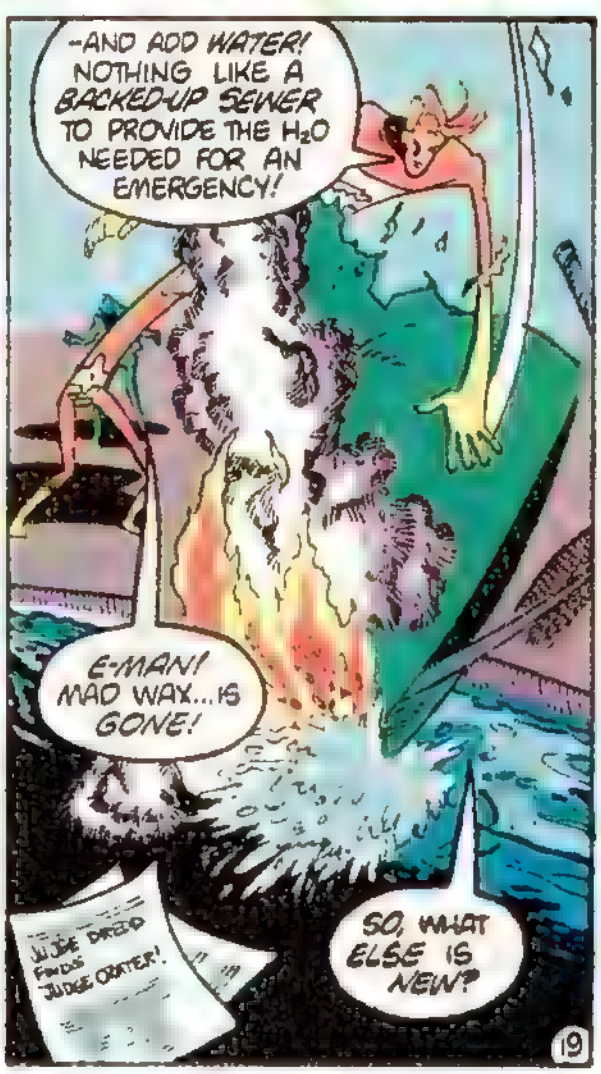
HEEEELPp!

SURE, LES. YOU TAKE CARE NOW.
NOBODY'S GOING TO BOTHER YOU ANY-MORE!
MEANWHILE, JUST UP THE STREET...
LES IS A NICE GUY, BUT THAT WACK-O STORY OF HIS MAKES ME WONDER IF MAYBE HE'S NOT WEARING HIS GIRDLE TOO TIGHT!
..BUT THEN AGAIN...!
AH, WELL. GUESS I'LL NEVER REALLY KNOW WHAT WENT ON IN HIS DRESSING ROOM...
WOULD'YA BELIEVE...
HEEEELPP!

FASTER THAN THOUGHT, E-MAN STREAKS BACK TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME IN AROGRESS, HIS HAND A BLAZE OF BURSTING ENERGIES...
UNHAND HIM, MONSTER!
I GET THE BEST CRIME-FIGHTING DIALOGUE OFF THE LATE, LATE, TRULY LATE SHOW...!
E-MAN?!?
I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE BEEN INTRODUCED!
SLUDGE
AH, BUT WE HAVE MET... ALBEIT IN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FORM!
BUT NOW YOU MAY CALL ME...ER, MAD WAX! YES, THAT'S IT!
AND YOU CAN CALL ME STRETCH!
NOW DO YOU BELIEVE ME, E-MAN?!
SLURPP!
YOUR STORY'S STARTING TO SOUND A TAD MORE PLAUSIBLE!
THIS IS WAX HE'S GLUED MY FEET TO THE GROUND WITH--
--BUT WAX I CAN MELT MY WAY OUT OF IN NO TIME!
DO SO. THEN, FOOL-- AND FOLLOW ME AT YOUR OWN RISK! HA HA!
18

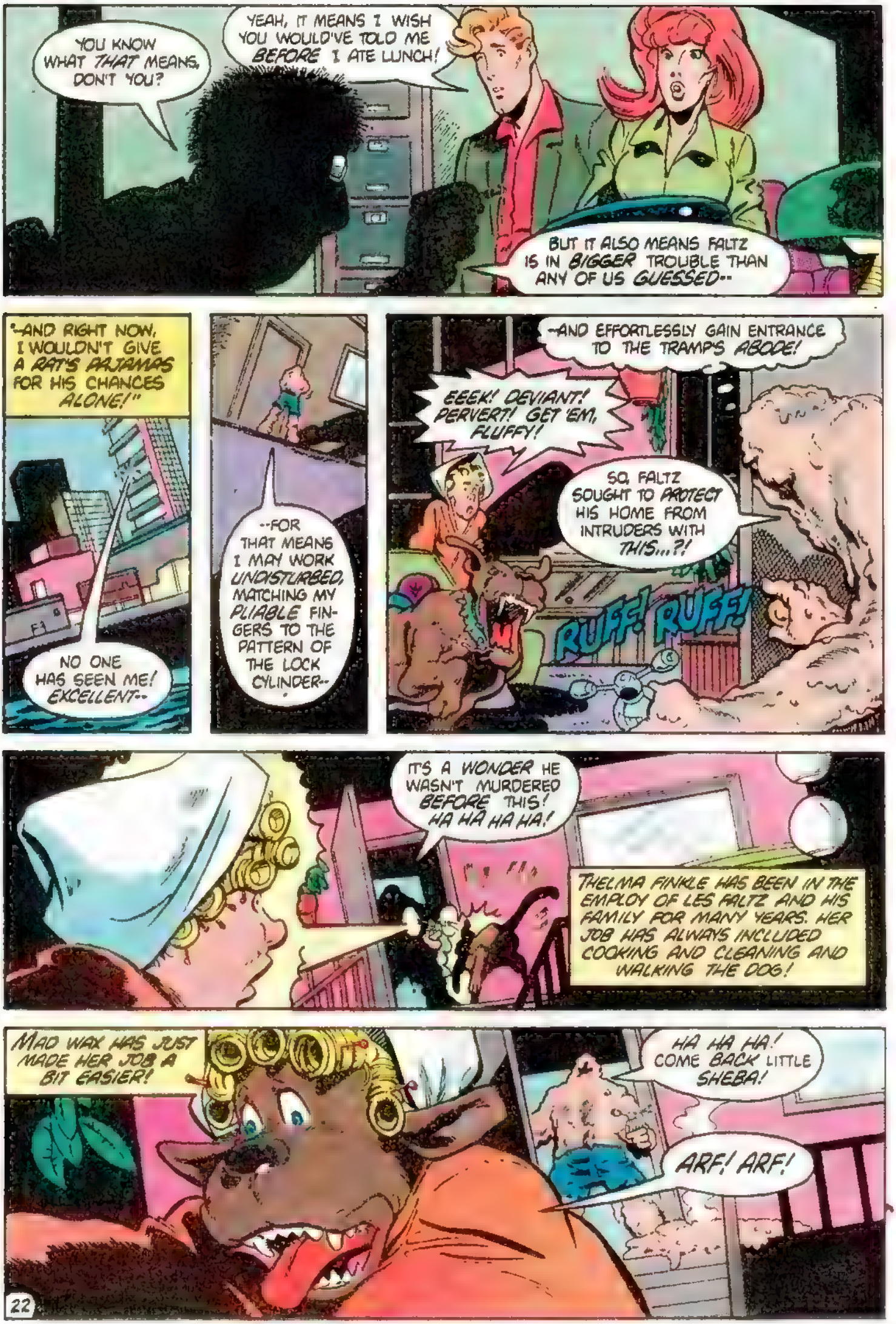
GET BEHIND ME, LES! MY ENERGY BOLTS CAN MELT THIS GUNK BEFORE IT GETS NEAR US! AND WHATEVER I DO TO HIS WAX-MISSILES--
-I CAN ALSO DO TO MAD WAX!
WHOOSH!
AIYEEE!
IN THIS STATE, HEAT AND FLAME ARE MY GREATEST ENEMIES!
I MUST RETREAT... SOLIDIFY...!

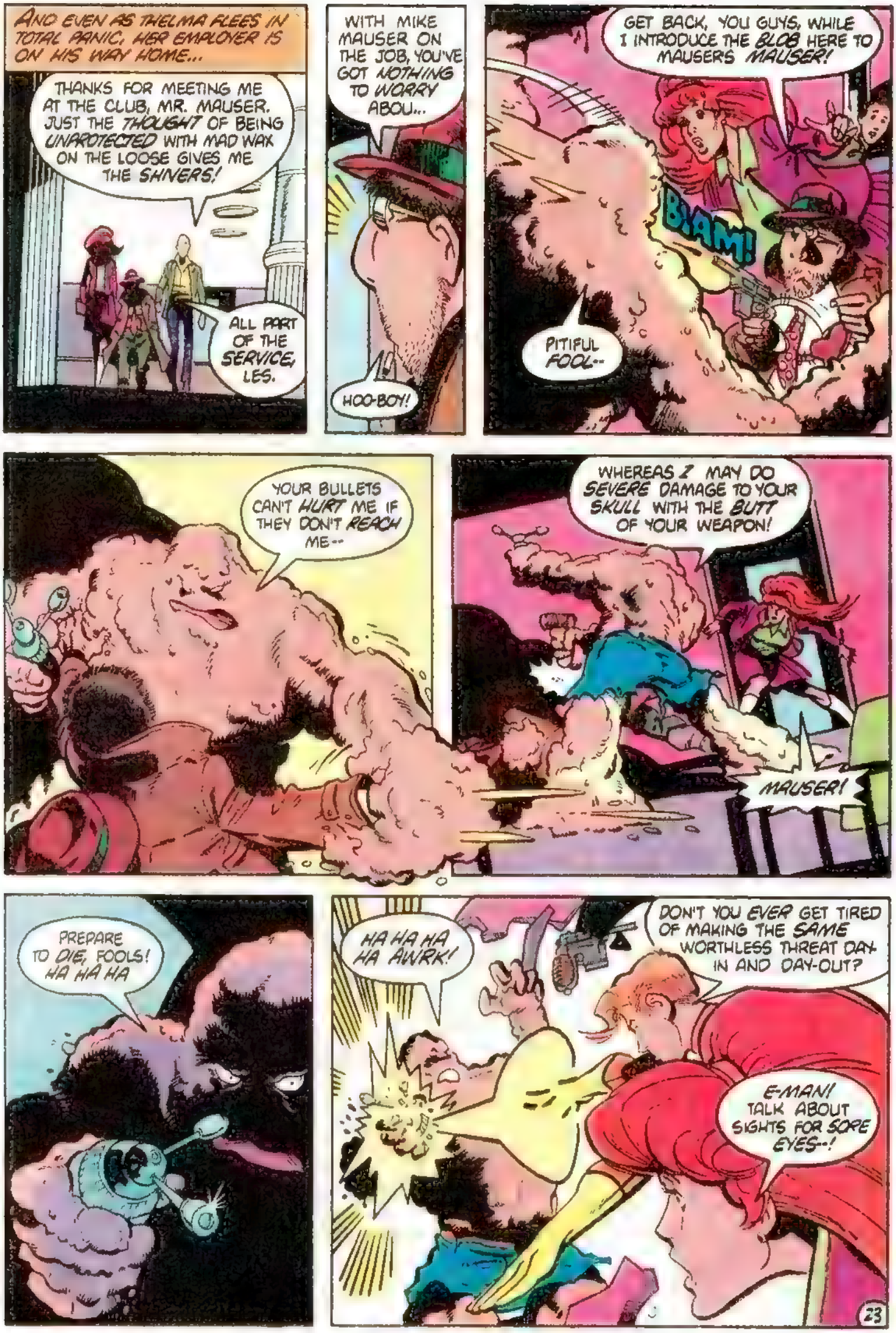

AWWWW, NUTS! THAT FABRIC AWNING'S CAUGHT FIRE, AND I CAN'T SEE WAXY THROUGH ALL THE SMOKE!
CAN'T LET THE FIRE SPREAD! GOTTA SEPARATE THE AWNING FROM THE BUILDING-

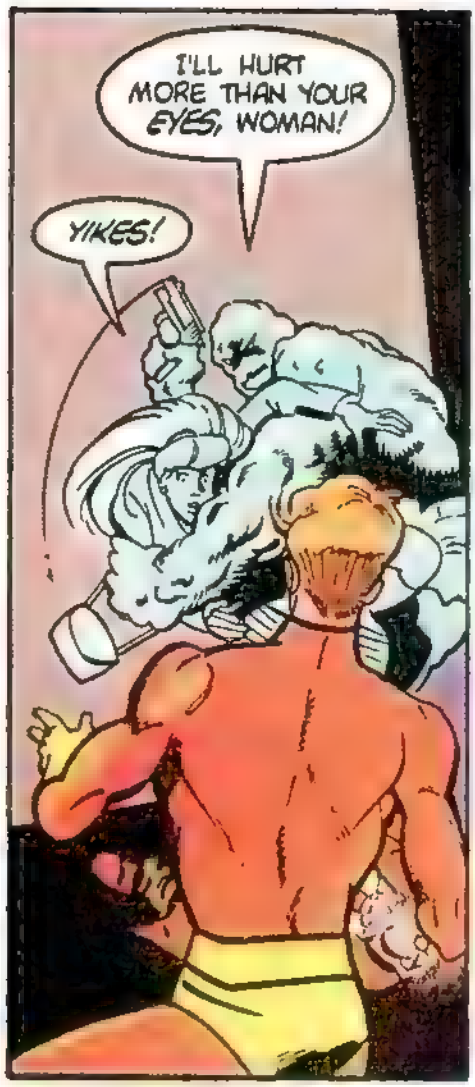

-AND ADD WATER! NOTHING LIKE A BACKED-UP SEWER TO PROVIDE THE H_2O NEEDED FOR AN EMERGENCY!
E-MAN! MAD WAX... IS GONE!
SO, WHAT ELSE IS NEW?
JUDGE DREDD FINDS JUDGE ORTER!
19

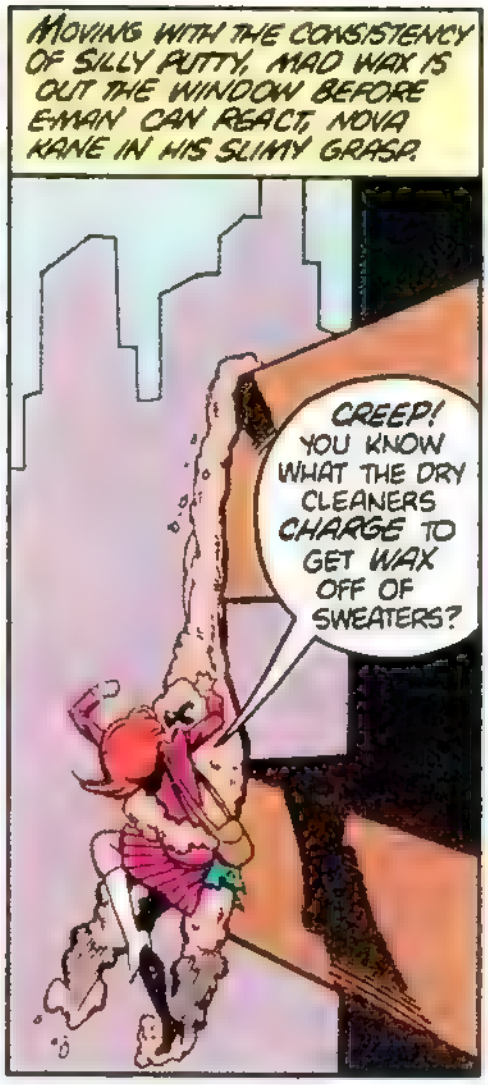
THE REST OF E-MAN'S AFTERNOON IS SPENT SEARCHING THE CITY FOR A TRACE OF MAD WAX.
HYPD
HE SHOULD'VE JUST HUNG AROUND POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND WAITED!
THEY WILL HAVE STORED IT HERE, AS EVIDENCE--
--THE FORM-SWITCHER! IT'S CLEAR I'LL NEED MORE THAN MY OWN NATURALLY SLIPPERY TALENTS TO KILL THAT ERSATZ HUSSY WITH E-MAN PROTECTING HIM!
T-BEAR WHEN MURDER
MYSTERIOUS GADGET
THIS IS JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDE... HUH?!
HEY! YOU SHOULDN'T OUGHTA BE IN HERE! THIS ROOM'S RESTRICTED!
BAH!
WAITAMINNIT! Y-YOU AIN'T JUST UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL..Y-YOU'RE SOME KIND'A MONSTER...
PULLING YOUR WEAPON WAS YOUR FIRST MISTAKE, FOOL--
--BUT NAME CALLING WAS BY FAR YOUR MORE SERIOUS ONE!
M-MY HAND...CAUGHT IN THAT MUCK...!
YOUR FACE, TOO!
MMMMPHFF!
AND UNLESS YOU CAN BREATHE WAX--
--I SUGGEST YOU MAKE ANY PRAYERS TO YOUR MAKER VERY QUICKLY INDEED! HA HA HA!
PLOP!

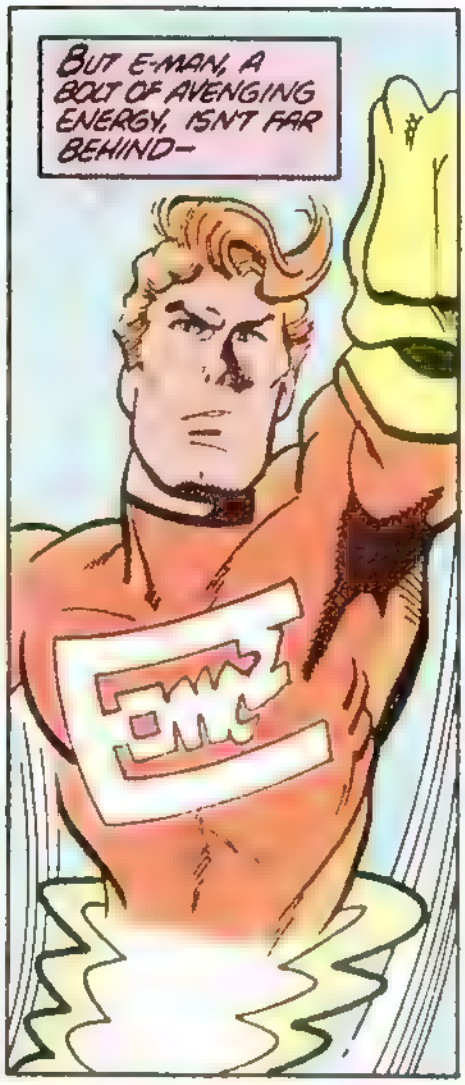
THIS DAY'S NEW YORK POST WILL GET AN AFTERNOON'S WORTH OF HEADLINES OUT OF THE POLICEMAN'S STRANGE MURDER BEFORE MOVING ON TO GAUDIER TOPICS...
..AND ON THE FOLLOWING DAY--
KLOS
MAUSER
SHOPLIFT
--IN THE DIRT SPLATTERED WALLS OF THE MAUSER DETECTIVE AGENCY...
GLAD YOU'RE FINALLY BACK FROM CHOW, TRONN. JUST GOT A CALL FROM LES FALTZ!
HE'S HIRING ME AS HIS BODYGUARD. THE ATTACK BY THAT FREAKY WAX GUY REALLY UNHINGED HIM.
BETTER START FOLLOWING UP ON A COUPLE'A THINGS...!
Y'KNOW, NOVA, MAUSER'S MY FRIEND AND ALL, BUT...WELL, I'M STARTING TO GET WORRIED. HE'S GOT SOME, UMM...STRANGE IDEAS ABOUT YOU!
OH?
I THINK HE'S TRYING TO USE THEM TO BREAK US UP, NOVA...BUT I'VE GOT AN IDEA--
--THAT IF WE HIRE YOU TO WORK HERE IN THE OFFICE, INSTEAD OF AT THE CLUB AS A STRIPPER, MAYBE HE'LL LET UP ON...
NOW HEAR THIS, ALEC TRONN! IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO LET THAT PIP-SQUEAK OF A GUMSHOE TELL ME WHAT TO...
SORRY TO BREAK-UP THE GABFEST, KIDDIES, BUT I JUST GOT OFF THE HORN WITH THE MEDICAL EXAMINER--
-AND ACCORDING TO HIM, THAT GELATINOUS MASS THEY FOUND IN FALTZ'S DRESSING ROOM AIN'T JELLO OR RICE PUDDING--
-BUT SOME KIND OF CONGEALED AMALGAM OF HUMAN BONE AND TISSUE!

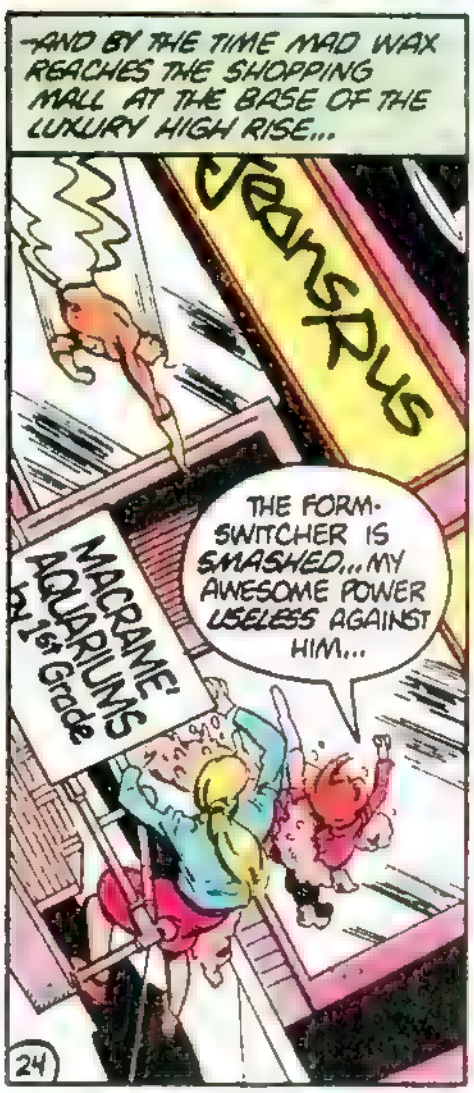

YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, DON'T YOU?
YEAH, IT MEANS I WISH YOU WOULD'VE TOLD ME BEFORE I ATE LUNCH!
BUT IT ALSO MEANS FALTZ IS IN BIGGER TROUBLE THAN ANY OF US GUESSED--
"-AND RIGHT NOW, I WOULDN'T GIVE A RAT'S PAJAMAS FOR HIS CHANCES ALONE!"
NO ONE HAS SEEN ME! EXCELLENT--
--FOR THAT MEANS I MAY WORK UNDISTURBED, MATCHING MY PLIABLE FINGERS TO THE PATTERN OF THE LOCK CYLINDER--
-AND EFFORTLESSLY GAIN ENTRANCE TO THE TRAMP'S ABODE!
EEEK! DEVIANT! PERVERT! GET 'EM, FLUFFY!
SO, FALTZ SOUGHT TO PROTECT HIS HOME FROM INTRUDERS WITH THIS...?!
RUFF! RUFF!
IT'S A WONDER HE WASN'T MURDERED BEFORE THIS! HA HA HA HA!
THELMA FINKLE HAS BEEN IN THE EMPLOY OF LES FALTZ AND HIS FAMILY FOR MANY YEARS. HER JOB HAS ALWAYS INCLUDED COOKING AND CLEANING AND WALKING THE DOG!
MAD WAX HAS JUST MADE HER JOB A BIT EASIER!
HA HA HA! COME BACK LITTLE SHEBA!
ARF! ARF!

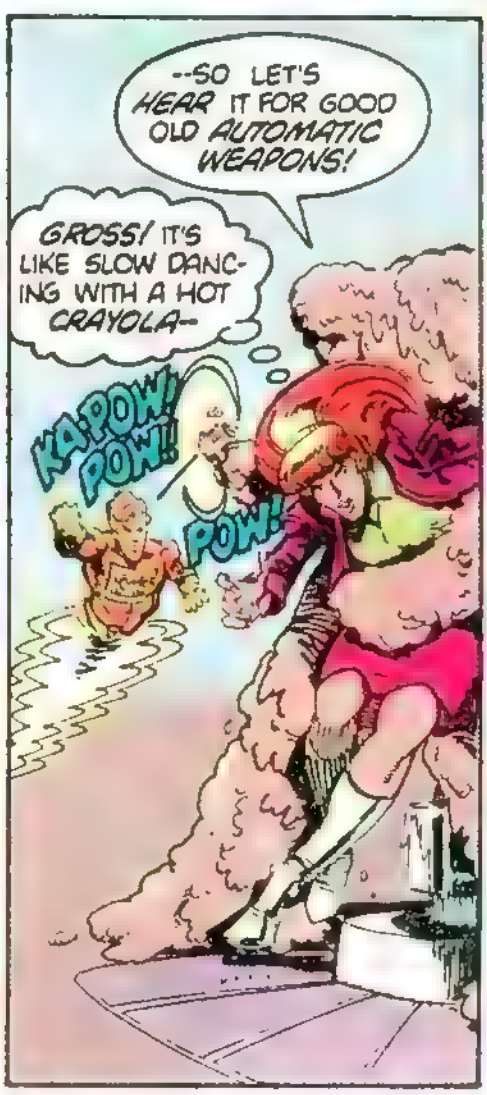

AND EVEN AS THELMA FLEES IN TOTAL PANIC, HER EMPLOYER IS ON HIS WAY HOME...
THANKS FOR MEETING ME AT THE CLUB, MR. MAUSER. JUST THE THOUGHT OF BEING UNPROTECTED WITH MAD WAX ON THE LOOSE GIVES ME THE SHIVERS!
ALL PART OF THE SERVICE, LES.
WITH MIKE MAUSER ON THE JOB, YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOU...
HOO-BOY!
GET BACK, YOU GUYS, WHILE I INTRODUCE THE BLOB HERE TO MAUSERS MAUSER!
B'AM!
PITIFUL FOOL--
YOUR BULLETS CAN'T HURT ME IF THEY DON'T REACH ME--
WHEREAS I MAY DO SEVERE DAMAGE TO YOUR SKULL WITH THE BUTT OF YOUR WEAPON!
MAUSER!
PREPARE TO DIE, FOOLS! HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA AWRK!
DON'T YOU EVER GET TIRED OF MAKING THE SAME WORTHLESS THREAT DAY IN AND DAY-OUT?
E-MAN! TALK ABOUT SIGHTS FOR SORE EYES--!
23

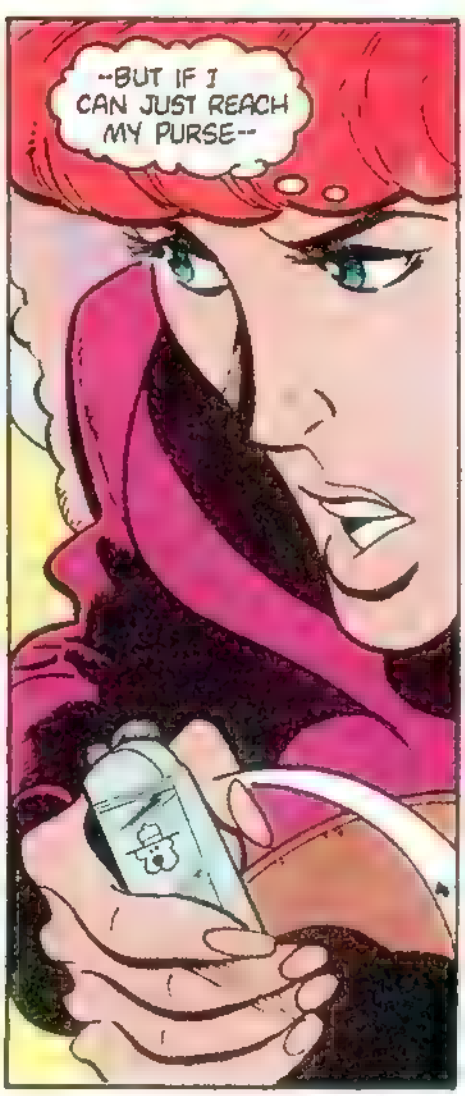

I'LL HURT MORE THAN YOUR EYES, WOMAN!
YIKES!


MOVING WITH THE CONSISTENCY OF SILLY PUTTY, MAD WAX IS OUT THE WINDOW BEFORE E-MAN CAN REACT, NOVA KANE IN HIS SLIMY GRASP.
CREEP! YOU KNOW WHAT THE DRY CLEANERS CHARGE TO GET WAX OFF OF SWEATERS?


BUT E-MAN, A BOLT OF AVENGING ENERGY, ISN'T FAR BEHIND--


--AND BY THE TIME MAD WAX REACHES THE SHOPPING MALL AT THE BASE OF THE LUXURY HIGH RISE...
JeansRUs
MACRAME' AQUARIUMS by 1st Grade
THE FORM-SWITCHER IS SMASHED... MY AWESOME POWER USELESS AGAINST HIM...
24


--SO LET'S HEAR IT FOR GOOD OLD AUTOMATIC WEAPONS!
GROSS! IT'S LIKE SLOW DANCING WITH A HOT CRAYOLA--
KA-POW!
POW!
POW!


--BUT IF I CAN JUST REACH MY PURSE--

-I CAN FLICK MY BIC OUTTA THIS MESS!
ARRGHH! F-FIRE! I...I MUST FLEE-!
WE GOT 'IM ON THE RUN NOW, NOVA! LET ME AT HIM!
I WILL SEEK REFUGE HERE--
WHAT'D YOU MEAN "WE...?"
HEALTH SPA
-THOUGH I FEAR IT WILL BE MOST UNHEALTHY FOR THE CLUB'S PATRONS!
K-KRASHH!
COME TO POPPA, WAXY! IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN BARBELLS AND NAUTILUS MACHINES TO KEEP ME FROM YOU-!
NOW, JUMP ROPES AND EXERCYCLES...THAT'LL DO IT, ALRIGHT! YUP!
E-MAN STRUGGLES TO UNTANGLE HIMSELF FROM THE EXERCISE EQUIPMENT, EVEN AS HE STRETCHES AFTER HIS FOE.
BUT THE SLIPPERY SLAUGHTERER HAS OTHER IDEAS, OOZING FROM E-MAN'S OUTSTRETCHED FINGERS--
25

AND SEEKING SANCTUARY BEHIND A REINFORCED STEEL DOOR!
IF NOTHING ELSE, LOCKING MAD WAX IN HERE'LL GIVE ME A FEW SECONDS BREATHING SPACE, AND...
KLIK!
IZZAT YOUR FRIEND YOU SAID WUZ IN TROUBLE, SHORTY?
THAT'S THE ONE, MUSCLES... AND MY NAME'S NOT SHORTY, GET IT?
I JUZ HOPE IT'S "ROCKEFELLER," BUDDY--
--CUZ HE JUST TRASHED $15,000 WORTH OF EQUIPMENT!
YOU FOLKS BETTER STAND BACK! LORD KNOWS WHEN MAD WAX'LL COME BURSTING OUT OF THAT ROOM!
Y-YOU MEAN, NOW HE'S IN MY STEAMROOM? GROAN!
STEAM... ROOM...?
SURE! AN' I'LL BET HE'S SWEATING NOW, 'CUZ THE SWITCH THAT TURNS ON THE STEAM IS THE SAME AS THE ONE FOR THE LIGHTS I TURNED ON WHEN WE CAME IN!
ER... EITHER OF YOU GUYS WANNA LOOK AND TELL ME WHAT HAPPENS TO A GUY MADE OF WAX IN A STEAMROOM--?
OH, YUCHH!
DON'T BE DISGUSTING, KID!

EPILOGUE:
IT'S SOMEWHERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 4 A.M., AND, IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, STREETS AND OFFICES TEND TO BE DESERTED AT THAT HOUR.
MAUSER DETECTIVE AGENCY
PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION
DOG CATCHES OYSTER
NOT SO IN THE OFFICE OF THE MAUSER DETECTIVE AGENCY...
I REALLY HATE VIOLATING MAUSER'S PRIVACY LIKE THIS, BUT AN ENERGY-BEING'S GOTTA DO WHAT AN ENERGY-BEING'S GOTTA DO!
MAUSER'S BEEN DOING HIS DARNEDEST TO DISCREDIT NOVA-
-AND I GET THE SNEAKY SUSPICION HIS NEPHEW DONALD'S TRIP IS PART OF THIS SMEAR CAMPAIGN! I... HUH?! WHAT'S THIS?
A CREDIT CARD RECEIPT FOR DONALD'S PLANE TICKET!
ACCORDING TO THIS, MAUSER SENT HIM OFF TO A PLACE CALLED BARRENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA--
--AND I'LL BET DOLLARS TO DOUGHNUTS IT'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH NOVA'S PAST...
...AND ANY DIRT HE CAN DIG UP ON HER!
NUTS!
NEXT ISSUE: REVELATIONS... and TYGER LIL??

E-MAIL

%FIRST COMICS, 1014 DAVIS STREET, EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

Dear Editor,

E-Man #4 was by far the best issue to date. The satire was clever, not vicious or crude as in previous issues. The first three issues were too bogged down in a complicated plot structure to be enjoyable. In the case of the E-Man series, less is more and it needs to be heavy with lightheartedness.

If E-Man maintains its stride it will have the potential to surpass the original series in greatness. Being an avid comic collector, I was able to enjoy some gentle but laughable jokes at my own expense. I can't believe I paid a dollar to be made fun of and was still heartily amused.

Adam Burchess
1315 Morreene Rd. 24-C
Durham, NC 27705

Dear Folks,

I was there when E-Man #1 hit the stands back in the mid-1970s and it was my greatest disappointment when I discovered the title had been discontinued. So now, I've been so looking forward to his return that I was certain I'd be disappointed with his reincarnation.

And I am. I see what Mr. Pasko and Mr. Barr are trying to accomplish and I love their ideas, but I think the satire has gone way overboard.

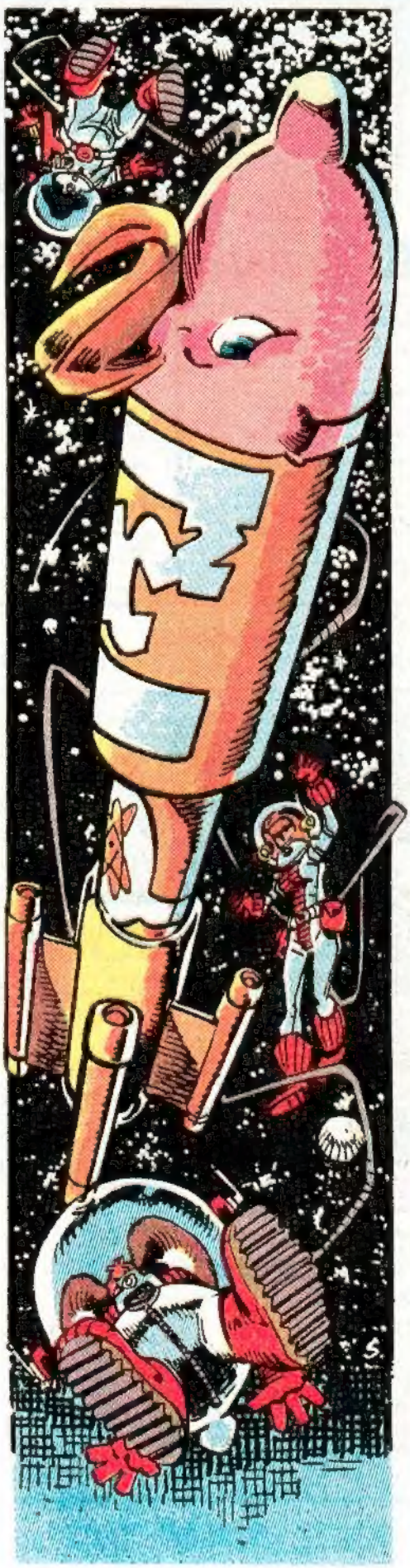
I suppose what really has made me mad was the reference to George Reeves. It was very, very tasteless and I have never been so offended in my comics reading life. I know that it was an honest mistake, but please guys — watch it. Overall, this is a first-class book and a first-class comics company, and I'll stick by you. But unless my feelings change, I'll just have to be content with the classic series.

Jim Amash
306 Tryon Street
Burlington, NC 27215

I'm sorry we didn't connect with you, Jim. The reference to George Reeves was no mistake — Mike didn't try to slip it by us in his plot, and Joe didn't try to slip it by anyone in his pencils. The gag was fully set up and everybody around here enjoyed it. Different strokes for different folks, I guess.

Dear Mike,

E-Man #4's "The Paper Bomb" was no such thing, being instead a fun, satiric romp through the half-life of comics collectors. Mielar Snuggs — whose love of comics extends to wearing pants like



the Kingpin's — has got to be the best new character introduced since whoever was in your last issue (forgive me, it's been a month). I especially enjoyed his remark "I decided I didn't want to be in the real world — and I won't be!" — it's the reality of that that gives it its bite.

One can only hope that Snuggs returns in a future story, perhaps with famous comic dealer A. Syd Freecartons in a fiendish plot (is there any other?) to buy up the entire print run of an issue of Spider-Mando and sell 'em for five bucks a pop to unsuspecting kidlings. And if not for the last-minute arrival of the All-Thumbs Squadron . . . well, I'm sure you can guess the rest.

David Allen
Olney Central College
5 Douglas Drive
Olney, IL 62450

P.S. Please pay me $10.00 for this plot.

Not if we have to guess the rest, David.

Dear Editor:

You know, I very nearly didn't persevere with the new series of E-Man. After reading the first issue, I so bitterly resented the replacement of the innocent charm of the original with the sniggering sleaze of the new incarnation that I decided to drop the book, as it bore almost no resemblance to the title I'd known and loved back in the 1970's. But I heard good things of the "F-Men" issues from various fans, so I decided to pick them up in hopes of an upswing.

Having seen #4, I'm glad I did. This is easily the best story of the new series. It's still somewhat more acidic than I remember the original E-Man being — I have to admit I felt an unnerving degree of sympathy with Mielar . . . it's the kind of blind fanaticism lurking in the back of most fans' heads.

The Mauser solo was a hugely enjoyable romp; I can't think why I haven't heard of Mr. Burchett before, but whatever you have to do, hang on to him — he's got a unique and very accessible style.

And the Teddy Q. solo merely proves that we don't see enough of Bruce Patterson's solo art. Try and squeeze some more out of him, okay?

One final favor — could you consider dropping the Einstein character? It's tasteless and disrespectful.

Howard W. Stangroom
10 Geneva Drive
Redcar, Cleveland
TS10 1JP
England

The votes are in — and the final fate of Einstein will unfold in **E-Man** *#9 on sale next month.*

As for squeezing, Mr. Patterson ...

Mr. Barr and Mr. Staton:

Just a quick note to say that the Mrs. and I have enjoyed the current E-Man series.

The fact that it's clever, witty, well written, colorful ... all this is secondary. I buy and read comics for the adventure and entertainment. Thanks for marketing a series that fits our needs.

By the way, we loved Green Lampshade and want a second appearance soon.

Terry Cannon
Oklahoma City, OK

Dear E-People:

Okay, so I wasn't very thrilled with the Paper Bomb so I'll go on to the back up story titled "Michael Mauser, Private Eye."

I loved it. Mike Barr did an excellent job of writing, Rick and Wendy created beautiful pictures, John's lettering was perfect, and Mike G. must have done an excellent piece of editing. I loved the musical notes in Tom Swellhack's voice bubbles. The way Mauser solved the case was remarkable. He should always have a back up story in E-Man.

Looking to the last page of E-Man #4, I noticed "Teddy Q in Fuzzyvision." Naughty, naughty. Now where can I buy Fuzzballs?

Steve Barker,
Somewhere, USA

Bruce Patterson will be out selling Fuzzballs in the lobby after the show, Steve. And we're sorry about losing your address — but you must know where you are.

Dear First Comics:

I must say I am quite upset. I was getting very used to being your average rather-bored, seen nothing new in five years comic reader. Then one fateful day it happened. A friend lends me a copy of E-Man #4, and, would you believe, I start experiencing unusual physiological reactions. These include quickness of breath, sweaty palms and excitement. Yes, excitement ... I've stumbled across an oddity. A publication which displays imagination, a satirical sense of humor and is just plain fun. It's fantastic and it has been a long time.

With an industry which is in the grips of stagnation, E-Man is like a breath of fresh air. Hopefully your competition will follow your lead and thrill us, your public, once again. Keep up the great stuff and I'll spend my bucks.

James Scarboro
119-3 Farley Ave.
Dover, NJ 07801

SPECIAL THANKS to scripter and friend Paul Kupperberg, who stepped in at the very last minute to save our deadlines with the script to this issue. And ...

NEXT ISSUE: Two amazing firsts — the first appearance of the ultimate baddie, Tyger Lili ... and the first appearance of a Joe Staton *script!* "What's Up, Tyger Lili" — 27 pages of action from **Joe Staton** (writer and penciller) and **Rick Burchett** (inker). Plus — **Phil** (D'arc Tangent) **Foglio's** Buck Godot, Zap Gun For Hire!

— Mike Gold

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Count On It!

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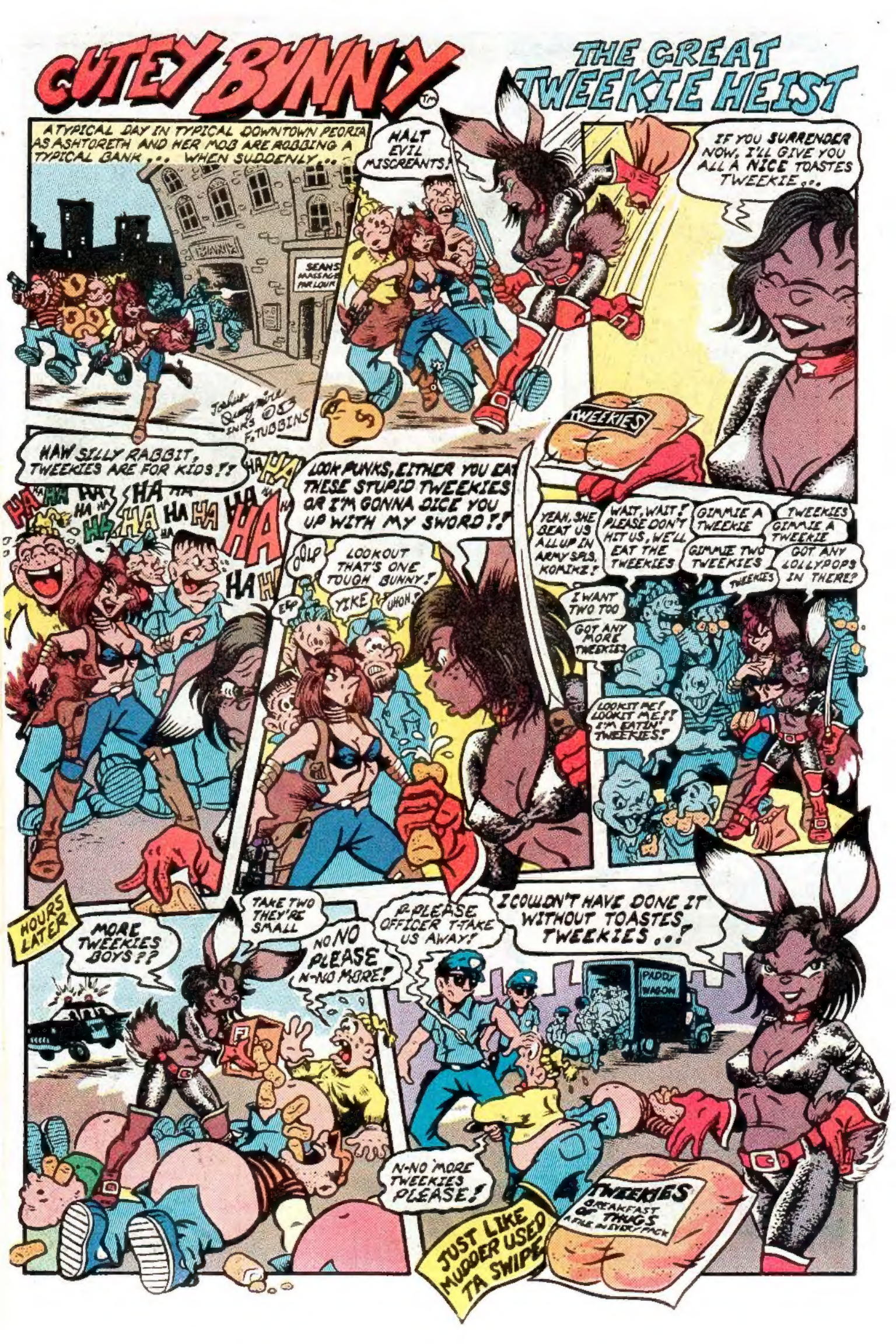
CUTEY BUNNY™
THE GREAT TWEEKIE HEIST
A TYPICAL DAY IN TYPICAL DOWNTOWN PEORIA AS ASHTORETH AND HER MOB ARE ROBBING A TYPICAL BANK... WHEN SUDDENLY...
SEAN'S MASSAGE PARLOUR
HALT EVIL MISCREANTS!
IF YOU SURRENDER NOW, I'LL GIVE YOU ALL A NICE TOASTES TWEEKIE...
TWEEKIES
HAW SILLY RABBIT, TWEEKIES ARE FOR KIDS!?
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
LOOK PUNKS, EITHER YOU EAT THESE STUPID TWEEKIES OR I'M GONNA DICE YOU UP WITH MY SWORD!?
OULP
LOOKOUT THAT'S ONE TOUGH BUNNY!
YIKE
UHOH!
EEP
YEAH, SHE BEAT US ALLUP IN ARMY SPLS, KOMIKZ!
WAIT, WAIT! PLEASE DON'T HIT US, WE'LL EAT THE TWEEKIES
GIMMIE A TWEEKIE
TWEEKIES GIMMIE A TWEEKIE
GIMMIE TWO TWEEKIES
GOT ANY LOLLYPOPS IN THERE?
TWEEKIES
I WANT TWO TOO
GOT ANY MORE TWEEKIES
LOOKIT ME! LOOKIT ME!! I'M EATIN' TWEEKIES!
HOURS LATER
MORE TWEEKIES BOYS!?
TAKE TWO THEY'RE SMALL
NO NO PLEASE N-NO MORE!
PLEASE OFFICER T-TAKE US AWAY!
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT TOASTES TWEEKIES..!
PADDY WAGON
N-NO MORE TWEEKIES PLEASE!
JUST LIKE MUDDER USED TA SWIPE
TWEEKIES BREAKFAST OF THUGS A FILE IN EVERY PACK